

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE
3 BONITO LAKE AS A SOURCE OF WATER TO MEET ITS DELIVERY
4 OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PECOS RIVER COMPACT AS WELL AS TO
5 PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY FOR AREAS WITHIN
6 THE PECOS RIVER SYSTEM.

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8 WHEREAS, the United States supreme court has found that
9 New Mexico has undelivered water to Texas under the Pecos
10 River Compact; and

11 WHEREAS, the Rio Bonito is a tributary of the Pecos
12 river, and Bonito lake, located at the headwaters of the Rio
13 Bonito, impounds water that is then conveyed westerly into
14 the Tularosa basin, a basin that is not hydrologically
15 connected to the Pecos river system; and

16 WHEREAS, the out-of-basin conveyance of water from a
17 river tributary to the Pecos river affects the flows into the
18 Pecos river; and

19 WHEREAS, planning documents developed by water users in
20 the Tularosa basin indicate their intention to ultimately end
21 their reliance on diversions from Bonito lake; and

22 WHEREAS, the current drought has demonstrated that for
23 the Ruidoso area, nestled in the southern Rocky mountains and
24 on the western edge of the Pecos river system, continued
25 reliance on existing surface and ground water supplies may be

1 problematic; and

2 WHEREAS, the Ruidoso area requires additional water
3 supplies in order to provide a sustainable water supply for
4 its existing population; and

5 WHEREAS, Bonito lake could aid the state in meeting its
6 delivery obligations to Texas under the Pecos River Compact
7 and at the same time provide a much-needed water supply for
8 the Ruidoso area; and

9 WHEREAS, meeting New Mexico's obligations on the Pecos
10 river is a matter of statewide public interest;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interstate stream commission be
13 requested to investigate the potential to use water from
14 Bonito lake to aid the state in meeting its delivery
15 obligations under the Pecos River Compact while
16 simultaneously providing a water supply for the Ruidoso area;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream
19 commission be requested to investigate the potential of
20 alternate sources of supply for water users in the Tularosa
21 basin, including analysis of using brackish waters and water
22 from the Salt basin in southern Otero county, to ensure that
23 Otero county continues to have abundant water supplies for
24 its entire population and for future economic expansion and
25 population growth; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because meeting delivery
2 obligations on the Pecos river is of statewide public
3 interest, the potential issuance of state-issued general
4 obligation bonds to provide funds for alternate water
5 supplies for the Ruidoso and Alamogordo areas should be
6 pursued expeditiously; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream
8 commission make a report of its investigations to the
9 appropriate interim water committee; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the interstate stream commission and the New
12 Mexico finance authority. _____

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